GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1065
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
SUPPLY OF POOR QUALITY FOODGRAINS IN LAKSHADWEEP
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently received complaints regarding supply of inferior quality foodgrains through Public Distribution (PDS) in Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): No, Sir. Government has not received any complaint in recent past regarding supply of inferior quality foodgrains through Public Distribution System in Lakshadweep.

(b) & (c): Does not arise. However, to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued to State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution under PDS, following steps have been taken by the Government:-

1. Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India(FCI) godowns.

2. Instruction have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

3. The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops(FPSs) for the benefit of consumers.

4. The officers of the State Governments and the Ministry pay surprise checks to the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

5. The officers of the Department designated as `Area Officers` for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.